

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application. Claims 10-15 and 18-29 stand allowed. The assignee reiterates its position as to the reasons for the allowability of these claims that was set forth in the reply to the prior Office Action. Claims 1, 16, and 30 have been amended herein.

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Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Independent claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the examiner's suggestion. Consequently, claims 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2-9 are also in condition for allowance for the reasons noted in the reply to the prior Office Action.

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Claims 16, 30, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,366,681 (hereinafter referred to as "the '681 patent") to Hutchins in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,421,610 (hereinafter referred to as "the '610 patent") to Carroll, et al.

Independent claims 16 and 30 have been amended to incorporate the definition of reflectance factor set forth in independent claim 1, which is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, independent claims 16 and 30 are now also believed to be in condition for allowance for substantially the same reasons as noted in the reply to the prior Office Action when the present amendment is taken into account. Dependent claim 31 is also believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted in the prior reply.

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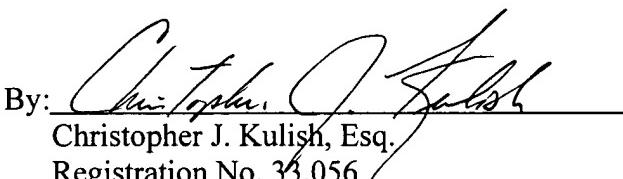
No claim related fees are believed to be due with this response. In the event any such fees are due, please debit Deposit Account 08-2623.

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The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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